

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 10542 180120Z

63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 INSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00

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P R 180051Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5261

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: NINE THOUSAND CENTRAL AMERICANS REPORTEDLY EXPELLED
FROM MEXICO

1. A HIGH-LEVEL MEXICAN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL (JAIME GUTIERREZ QUIROZ, CHIEF OF IMMIGRATION INSPECTION) TOLD REPORTERS DEC. 16 THAT GOM HAD DEPORTED 9,000 GUATEMALANS AND SALVADORANS DURING PAST TWO MONTHS. HOWEVER, STORY WAS SQUELCHED IN FOLLOWING MORNING'S NEWSPAPERS WITH BRIEF DENIAL FROM SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT (INTERIOR) THAT ANY SUCH MASS EXPULSION HAS OCCURED.

2. ACCORDING TO INITIAL REPORTS, OFFICIAL STATED THAT DEPORTEES HAD ALL BEEN ARRESTED NEAR US-MEXICO BORDER AS RESULT OF TIGHTENED IMMIGRATION VIGILANCE THERE AIMED AT "PREVENTING MEXICO'S BECOMING SPRINGBOARD FOR TRADE IN HUMAN BEINGS". TIJUANA AND MEXICALI WERE IDENTIFIED AS LOCALITIES WHERE VIGILANCE HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY INCREASED. OFFICIAL IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT ALL THOSE DEPORTED

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 10542 180120Z

WERE IN MEXICO ILLEGALLY, EITHER HAVING ENTERED UNDER

FALSE PRETENSES AS "TOURISTS" OR ELSE HAVING SWUM SUCHIATE RIVER,
AND ALMOST ALL WERE IN DESPERATE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

3. DEC. 18 GOM DENIAL STATED MERELY THAT THE EARLIER
REPORT WAS FALSE, THAT EXPULSION OF FOREIGNERS IS "NORMAL"
AND NOWHERE NEAR THE LEVEL REPORTED, NOR WERE NATIONALS
OF CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES BEING SINGLED OUT FOR TOUGH
TREATMENT.

4. COMMENT: DENIAL OF REPORTED EXPULSIONS, PLUS
ELIMINATION OF STORY FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS, ONLY ADDS
CREDENCE TO ORIGINAL INFORMATION. HOWEVER, THIS IS FIRST
EMBASSY HAS HEARD OF ANY GOM INTEREST IN BLOCKING "TRANSIENT"
MIGRATION FROM CENTRAL AMERICA TO US. REPORTED ROUND-UP
EVIDENTLY DID NOT TOUCH MANY THOUSANDS OF CENTRAL AMERICANS
KNOWN TO BE WORKING ILLEGALLY IN MEXICO ITSELF, OFTEN
UNDER MOST OPPRESSIVE CONDITIONS OF EXPLOITATION, PARTICULARLY
IN TEHUANTEPEC AND YUCATAN.

5. IMMEDIATE MOTIVATION FOR ANY SUCH ROUND-UP IS
OBSCURE TO US, ALTHOUGH OUR BETTING IS THAT DEPORTEES
WERE LIKELY THOSE WHO HAD ALREADY ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY
TO ENTER US AND WHO THEN JOINED RANKS OF DISPLACED, JOB-
HUNGRY MIGRANTS CROWDING MEXICAN SIDE OF BORDER.
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